Yukon

Government of Yukon

Yukon Government NEWS release

FOR RELEASE #08-162
June 27, 2008

Yukon to Hold First Ever Family Fishing Weekend

WHITEHORSE – Environment Minister Dennis Fentie invites all Yukoners to experience the excitement and serenity of fishing during the territory's first annual Family Fishing Weekend on July 4 to 7.

"Fishing is a great way to enjoy our pristine environment," Fentie said. "For this weekend only, fishing is free so it will be easy to pick up a rod and pack up the family for a relaxing weekend outdoors."

Fishing regulations still apply on Family Fishing Weekend, including catch and possession limits. All that has changed is that an angling (fishing) licence is not required between July 4 and 7. An angling licence and Salmon Catch Card is required if fishing for salmon.

The Yukon's 22 stocked lakes provide easy access to good fishing, with eight stocked lakes in the Whitehorse area alone. Environment Yukon's Angler's Guide to Stocked Lakes in the Yukon has maps and detailed descriptions of all the lakes and the best ways to fish them. The guide is available at Environment Yukon offices, the government's Inquiry Centre and online at **www.environmentyukon.gov.yk.ca**.

Environment Yukon and the Yukon Fish and Game Association are organizing a number of events for National Fishing Week from July 5 to 13 to encourage first-timers to try fishing. The kick-off is on Sunday, July 6, with events at the Whitehorse Fish Ladder and the Hidden Lakes.

The federal government amended the Yukon Territory Fishing Regulation earlier this year so that it would be legal to fish without a licence on Family Fishing Weekend. The Department of Fisheries and Oceans supports recreational fishing, after conservation needs have been met.

2008-05298/

Consultation led by the Yukon Fish and Wildlife Management Board in 2004 found widespread support for a free fishing weekend. Yukon residents pay $15 for a season-long angling licence. Licences for seniors and children 16 and under are free.

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